



2018/2107(INI)

3.12.2018

AMENDMENTS

1 - 29

Draft opinion
Frank Engel
(PE629.507v01-00)

Implementation of the GSP Regulation No 978/2012
(2018/2107(INI))

Amendment 1
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); welcomes the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important step towards poverty eradication; notes that the focus on fewer beneficiaries under the 2012 regulation should further contribute to this aim;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); welcomes the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important step towards poverty eradication; notes that the focus on fewer beneficiaries under the 2012 regulation should further contribute to this aim; ***but recalls that GSP is at most a facilitator and for it to have a positive social and human rights impact, governments should enact effective legislation and social policies, as well as actively support institutions and legal reforms focusing on the promotion and protection of human and labour rights;***

Or. en

Amendment 2
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); welcomes the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important ***step*** towards poverty eradication; ***notes that the focus on fewer beneficiaries under the 2012 regulation should further contribute***

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); welcomes the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important ***contribution*** towards poverty eradication;

to this aim;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Mireille D'Ornano, Florian Philippot

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); ***welcomes*** the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important step towards poverty eradication; notes that the focus on fewer beneficiaries under the 2012 regulation should further contribute to this aim;

Amendment

1. ***Takes note of*** the Commission's Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP); ***also takes note of*** the fact that the new regulation has seen an increase in exports from beneficiaries of the Everything But Arms (EBA) and GSP+ arrangements, which is an important step towards poverty eradication; notes that the focus on fewer beneficiaries under the 2012 regulation should further contribute to this aim;

Or. fr

Amendment 4
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1 a. Emphasize that EU's trade policy must be built on the principles of EU external policy (effectiveness, transparency and values); whereas Article 208 of the TFEU establishes the principle of policy coherence for development and sets the eradication of poverty as the main objective;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 5
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Calls on Member States to strengthen compliance with the rules of origin in the context of the GSP+ and EBA systems to prevent fraud by exporters from countries without tariff concessions, such as China and India;

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Mireille D'Ornano, Florian Philippot

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes **with satisfaction** that in 2016 EUR 62.6 billion worth of imports entered the EU under GSP preferences (a rising tendency), broken down as follows: EUR 31.6 billion from Standard GSP beneficiaries, around EUR 7.5 billion from GSP+ beneficiaries and EUR 23.5 billion from EBA beneficiaries (Eurostat data as of September 2017);

2. Notes that in 2016 EUR 62.6 billion worth of imports entered the EU under GSP preferences (a rising tendency), broken down as follows: EUR 31.6 billion from Standard GSP beneficiaries, around EUR 7.5 billion from GSP+ beneficiaries and EUR 23.5 billion from EBA beneficiaries (Eurostat data as of September 2017);

Or. fr

Amendment 7
Louis Michel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Recalls that GSP helps industries in developing countries overcome the

difficulties these countries face on export markets as a result of high initial costs; recalls that, in line with Unctad objectives, the aims of the GSP are to increase the export revenue and promote the industrialisation of developing countries and consequently LDCs, and to accelerate their growth with a view to eradicating poverty;

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Underlines that the GSP+ is a key to the EU trade policy instrument which provides better market access and is accompanied by astringent monitoring mechanism to promote human and labour rights, environmental protection and good governance in vulnerable developing countries;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Jean-Luc Schaffhauser

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Is concerned about the drop in Africa's share in the total volume of global exports;

Or. fr

Amendment 10
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, *meaning the potential benefit for the world's poorest countries is also high*; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more *useful*;

Amendment

3. *Welcomes the fact* that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high; *recalls that market-access alone is not enough to reduce poverty and inequalities*; stresses *therefore* that EBA should be complemented with *development aid as well as* trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more *effective*; *notes in particular that greater effort is needed to tackle issues such as land grabbing and environmental degradation in the context of EBA*;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes with satisfaction that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, meaning the potential benefit for the world's poorest countries is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful;

Amendment

3. Notes with satisfaction that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, meaning the potential benefit for the world's poorest countries is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful; *recalls, however, that there is no direct link between trade liberalisation, economic growth and poverty reduction*;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Louis Michel

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3**

Draft opinion

3. Notes with satisfaction that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, meaning the potential benefit for the *world's poorest* countries is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful;

Amendment

3. Notes with satisfaction that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, meaning the potential benefit for the *least developed (LDCs)* is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful;

Or. fr

**Amendment 13
Mireille D'Ornano, Florian Philippot**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3**

Draft opinion

3. Notes *with satisfaction* that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, *meaning* the potential benefit for the world's poorest countries is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful;

Amendment

3. Notes that the preference utilisation rate for EBA beneficiaries is high, *which could mean that* the potential benefit for the world's poorest countries is also high; stresses that EBA should be complemented with trade-related assistance and capacity-building if it is to become more useful;

Or. fr

**Amendment 14
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

3 a. *Regrets that the Mid-Term*

Evaluation indicates that the GSP had only a limited impact on sustainable development and environmental protection; in particular, notes with concern that the production and trade of textiles and clothing, which are the main import products under the GSP, have accelerated environment degradation in beneficiary countries in the absence of adequate environmental and waste management mechanisms[1];

[1] See Mid-Term Evaluation of GSP, cited above.

Or. en

Amendment 15
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the fact that GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the fact that GSP has ***by and large*** contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; ***believes, however, that temporary withdrawal of tariff preferences in case of severe and systematic violations of fundamental rights shall be more effectively used;*** stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes, ***so as to enable all interested parties to submit petitions on alleged labour and human rights violations on companies or states benefiting from the duty-free access to the EU under the GSP list;***

Or. en

Amendment 16
Louis Michel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the fact that GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the fact that *the* GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, ***fundamental labour rights, observation of environmental standards,*** implementation of good governance practices ***including combating drugs, corruption, money laundering and terrorism,*** and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes;

Or. fr

Amendment 17
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the fact that GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with *the* participation of civil society in these processes;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the fact that GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; ***urges the Commission to intensify dialogue with partner countries on these issues in order to ensure continuous progress;*** stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with ***greater*** participation of civil society in these processes;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Mireille D'Ornano, Florian Philippot

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *Welcomes the fact that* GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes;

Amendment

4. *Takes note of the assessments which argue that the* GSP has contributed to social development and human rights, in particular employment of women, implementation of good governance practices and ratification of core ILO conventions; stresses the importance of continued engagement and monitoring, together with the participation of civil society in these processes;

Or. fr

Amendment 19
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Notes with concern that there exists a more limited conditionality to adhere to fundamental labour and human rights under the Standard GSP and EBA arrangements; stresses the need to harmonise those standards towards the GSP+ approach as a way to improve compliance with ILO and UN conventions on labour and human rights; more broadly, stresses the need to ensure coherence between GSP and the FTA regimes, namely by providing sufficient incentives for countries to graduate from the EBA to the GSP+ status as well as from GSP+ to other FTA arrangements;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. Expects the GSP mid-term review to encourage more the EU's trade partners to adopt higher social, labour and environmental standards, which could be achieved through incentives such as additional tariff preferences for sustainably produced products;

Or. en

Amendment 21
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 b. Recalls that GSP is an incentive-based regime which must be used consistently in order to be effective; regrets that investigations into alleged non-compliance with the requirements on human rights and labour standards have not been launched in a coherent or timely manner; urges the Commission to take more decisive and swift action into alleged violations of human or labour rights under the requirements of the GSP regime; calls for the establishment of a mechanism that can be invoked by individuals or groups who have been negatively affected by the implementation of the GSP regime;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Is of the opinion that the more intensified GSP+ monitoring system, alongside the findings of UN and ILO monitoring bodies and information provided by third parties, has contributed to the fact that all GSP+ beneficiaries are making progress in implementing the 27 conventions;

Amendment

5. Is of the opinion that the more intensified GSP+ monitoring system, alongside the findings of UN and ILO monitoring bodies and information provided by third parties, has contributed to the fact that all GSP+ beneficiaries are making progress in implementing the 27 conventions; ***calls on the Commission to step up its efforts to improve transparency of EU's GSP+ monitoring, whose mechanism shall equally apply to GSP and EBA beneficiary countries, and to ensure a meaningful role for CSOs and Trade Unions in this framework;***

Or. en

Amendment 23
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Is of the opinion that the more intensified GSP+ monitoring system, alongside the findings of UN and ILO monitoring bodies and information provided by third parties, has contributed to the fact that all GSP+ beneficiaries are making progress in implementing the 27 conventions;

Amendment

5. ***Calls for greater support to be given to GSP+ beneficiary countries to reverse the trend of decreasing product diversification;*** Is of the opinion that the more intensified GSP+ monitoring system, alongside the findings of UN and ILO monitoring bodies and information provided by third parties, has contributed to the fact that all GSP+ beneficiaries are making progress in implementing the 27 conventions; ***notes however that greater transparency in GSP+ monitoring is needed;***

Or. en

Amendment 24
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Notes with concern that there is no conditionality to propel beneficiary countries of GSP and EBA arrangements to adhere to environmental standards and to comply with international conventions on climate change and environmental protection; takes the view that list of conventions on core human and labour rights as well as on environment and governance principles should be updated in the next reform of the GSP Regulation, notably by including as a new conditionality the ratification and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, while GSP Standards and EBA arrangements should be harmonised towards the GSP+ approach; more broadly, calls on the Commission to provide technical support to improve environmental protection in the implementation of each of the three GSP arrangements;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Louis Michel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Recalls that the EU must encourage, in the interests of the coherence of the policies of other international players, such as multinationals, full participation in

improving respect for human rights, rights of the child, social rights, environmental rights and public health in the world; calls on the EU to ensure that human rights in relation to the right to work in global value chains, i.e. throughout the supply chain, are respected;

Or. fr

Amendment 26
Louis Michel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5b. Recalls that the GSP covers the textile and clothing production sector more than any other; that the low investment costs and availability of low-skilled jobs mean that the textile and clothing industries are an important sector in terms of the industrialisation of LDCs; that textiles and clothing play a key role in the empowerment of women; is calling on the EU to establish a legally binding due diligence framework for companies and to extend the models developed in the context of conflict minerals, particularly in terms of transparency and traceability, to the textile sector;

Or. fr

Amendment 27
Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Calls for greater participation in the monitoring process from Member State embassies and development agencies.

6. Calls for greater participation in the monitoring process from Member State embassies and development agencies; ***but reiterates that the positive impact of the three GSP arrangements depend on whether the beneficiary countries have policies in place to effectively channel their resources to social and distribution-improving policies as well as adaptation and mitigation measures to limit the potential detrimental effects of increased production on the environment;***

Or. en

Amendment 28
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Calls for greater participation in the monitoring process from ***Member State embassies*** and development agencies.

Amendment

6. Calls for greater participation in the monitoring process from ***civil society*** and development agencies.

Or. en

Amendment 29
Frank Engel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. 6 a. Stresses the importance of capacity building in the beneficiary countries to reduce supply-side constraints on diversification and preference usage; calls for measures under Aid-for-Trade to be more effectively used in this regard;

Or. en

